



**For Immediate Release**

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**Contest Announced to Combat Litter in Parks**

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is soliciting photo entries for a “Strange Litter” contest. Prizes, sponsored by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), will be awarded to the most unusual litter removed from a city park during a permitted clean-up event. Entries are being accepted online via the Columbus Recreation and Parks Facebook page at <https://goo.gl/lKxnHW> from now through the end of August.

**“Parks are a place to enjoy the outdoors and we don’t want litter to get in the way of our ability to create a positive experience for visitors,” said Director of Columbus Recreation and Parks, Tony Collins. “Volunteerism in and of itself is recreation and recreation is our specialty. We’ve launched this contest to eliminate litter and have fun in the process. ”**

With a goal to have litter removed from each city park at least once per year, the city’s launched a website, [www.columbus.gov/CRPDvolunteers](http://www.columbus.gov/CRPDvolunteers) to track progress. The website features a map of park locations and their status- “In Need [of cleaning]”, “[clean up] Complete” or “Upcoming [clean up scheduled]”. Volunteers can join a public clean-up or schedule an event at the park of their choice by completing a proposal form. The city provides park access permits, trash bags, gloves and waste hauling to support volunteer group efforts to remove litter from parkland.

**“Keeping our public spaces clean, safe and healthy is important to the attractiveness of our County and keeps visitors returning which is good for all of us” said Hanna Greer-Brown, SWACO’s Communications Manager. “I applaud the city’s creativity in putting together a fun contest to encourage litter pick up.”**

Litter makes its way to the parks in a variety of ways such as illegal dumping, park users carelessly leaving items like water bottles behind, motorists allowing items to blow into the park from area roadways or rain events causing debris to wash downstream from storm drains becoming entangled in the greenway.

### **CONTEST RULES**

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department encourages volunteers to capture a photo of the most unusual piece of litter found during a permitted clean-up event.

### **WHO CAN ENTER**

The “Strange Litter” Photo Contest is open to legal residents of the United States. Employees of the City of Columbus and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), as well as immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings, and children) and household members of those employees, are not eligible to enter.

### **SPONSOR**

The Photo Contest is sponsored by the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO).

### **CONTEST PERIOD**

The Photo Contest begins at 12:00am EST on April 16, 2016 and ends at 12:00am EST on August 31, 2016.

### **ELIGIBLE PHOTOS**

Photos must be taken in a City of Columbus park property during the contest period. Cellphone quality photos are acceptable. Photos can be submitted in horizontal or vertical formats. To submit a photo, you must maintain the right to grant the city license to use the photo. If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining consent from the individuals for use of their picture in City of Columbus and SWACO promotions.

Images that contain any of the following will not be eligible to win, as determined by the city in its sole discretion:

- Photos that violate or infringe upon another person's rights, including but not limited to copyright.
- Photos that contain explicit, obscene, violent or other objectionable or inappropriate content.
- Images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment by the photographer
- Images that involve putting any individual or animal in danger.
- Images of dead animals.
- Images that depict any violations of law or park rules.

## **HOW TO ENTER**

Images must be submitted through the Columbus Recreation and Parks' Facebook photo submission [application](#), including all required fields. Digital images that are sent via mail or email will not be accepted.

You may enter an unlimited number of times, but you may not use an agency or automated system to enter. Sponsor reserves the right to reject any additional entries or entries that do not comply with these Official Rules. By entering, you indicate your unconditional agreement to, and acceptance of, these Official Rules and Sponsor's decisions, which are final and binding. You cannot win a prize unless you comply with all requirements in these Official Rules.

## **HOW TO WIN**

Five finalists will be selected through the voting mechanism in the Facebook application. A first, second and third prize winner will be selected by the contest sponsors based on level of strangeness as judged by sponsor representatives. All judging decisions are final. If a potential winner is a minor, his/her parent or legal guardian will be required to sign the documents on his/her behalf. If a potential winner fails to return these documents on time, an alternate potential winner may be selected.

Winners will be announced no later than September 12, 2016.

## **PRIZES**

The first place winner will receive a \$75 gift card. Second place winner will receive a \$50 gift card and third place winner will receive a \$25 gift card. Finalists may be featured in future sponsor communications.

## PHOTO PERMISSIONS

If you submit a photograph to enter the Photo Contest, you grant the City of Columbus and SWACO a royalty-free, nonexclusive right/license during the Photo Contest to:

- Display the photograph on the Photo Contest Facebook app.
- Allow third-parties to share the photograph on social media platforms.

If your photo is selected as a winner or finalist, you grant the City of Columbus and SWACO a royalty-free, nonexclusive right/license, in perpetuity, to:

- Use the photograph on the Internet and in social media.
- Use the photograph in internal and external communications materials.

## RELEASE AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

By entering, you agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor, City of Columbus and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, Facebook, their respective parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents (the “Released Parties”) from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Photo Contest or receipt or use of any prize.

Entry website preview (Facebook link):

Upload Curiosity

Upload

Photo Caption (optional)

100 characters remaining

Park location

Date of clean-up

Like us to receive notifications from us and our promotions

Columbus Recreation and Pa...

6.1K likes

Enter

HEARTBREAKING \* HORRIFYING \* HAIR-RAISING CURIOSITIES

**STRANGE LITTER CONTEST**

GUARANTEED REAL CASH PRIZES!  
sponsored by SWACO

This promotion is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by or associated with Facebook.

Litter is heartbreaking, horrifying and hair-raising and it has no place in our parks, so help clean it up and win a cash prize in the process.

1st wins \$75 2nd \$50 3rd \$25

People may vote on an uploaded photo to influence the contest judges (City of Columbus and SWACO). However, the winners will ultimately be determined by the Contest Moderator/Sponsors.

A call/unhome team shot is all it takes to win. This is not a professional photo contest and winners are not